--- 5 Cigarettes - “Canadian Tobacofina” - 1967 ---

The Canadian operations of “Benson and Hedges” was established by Arthur Walsh, a London (U.K.) bookkeeper who had been placed in charge of their New York branch in 1895, and who opened the first “Benson and Hedges” store in Montreal in 1906. In the late 1920’s “Benson and Hedges” moved into the Canadian market as [**8-10D**] when they purchased the assets of “J. Hirsch and Sons Ltd.” - who had been manufacturing cigars in Montreal since the 1880’s.

In July 1958 “Philip Morris Incorporated”, which had merged with “Benson and Hedges”, New York, in 1954 also merged with “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited”, and in 1961 opened a cigarette factory at Brampton, Ontario [**1-80-E**].

In 1962 “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” purchased “Tabacofina of Canada” [**30-10D**] and acquired their cigarette factory in Montreal where “Tabacofina” had for some years manufactured “Belvedere” cigarettes. The company’s range of cigarettes includes Parliament; Alpine; Benson & Hedges 100 mm., (plain and menthol); Mark 10, (plain and menthol); Belvedere, and Belmont.

The following **C-358b** - the Series “C” imperforate five cigarette stamp - uses a heavy 5 mm. Gothic letter as a date code. They come from the period 1966-67 (after the code reversal to **10D 30** had occurred). I feel that these are a complete letter sequence reading in *months* of production.

Counting those codes used by *Tabacofina* on the twenty and twenty-five cigarette sizes, and adding those from the parent company *Benson & Hedges*, the letters **A, C, E, H, I, K, L, O, R, T** and **W** have been collected from this sequence.

--- in red ink - a single copy to date ---

★RC-373 - 5 cigarettes, *imperf*, coded **A / 10D 30** by “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal

[★RC-373]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1966	**A**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Since, in red ink, **E** occurs on the Series “C” 25 cigarette stamp and **T** is found on the “Wings” Series 25 cigarette stamp (which places the “Wings” Series in 1967) something is amiss.

There was no five cigarette “Wings” Series stamp, and thus the codes usually found on “Wings” continued to be used on the Series “C” stamp.

File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 5 cigarettes \ 10D-30],
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December 16th 2013, JBH